

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) MCL Violation at Tewksbury MA Water System

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from 8/5/2021 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM. The standard for TTHM is 80 parts per billion (ppb). It is determined by averaging all samples collected by our system for the last 12 months. The level of TTHM averaged at our system for 11/5/2020 – 8/5/2021 was 88.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water.

People who drink water containing TTHMs in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Please see <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/tthm-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers> for a fact sheet on TTHMs.

What is being done?

The Tewksbury Water Treatment Plant has implemented multiple processes to address this issue including: adjusting chlorine dosage, regular basin cleaning, and a preventative maintenance plan for our aeration system which is proven to reduce TTHMs. **Following the most recent sampling event in November 2021, the TTHM values are below the 80 PPB limit, however the annual running average still exceeds the MCL set forth by the state.**

For more information, please contact our Town Chemist Melissa Woodbury at 978-858-0345 or mwoodbury@tewksbury-ma.gov

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Tewksbury Water System PWS ID#: MA 329-5000

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